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EDUCATION WEEK

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Universities Vie For $30-Million Voc.-Ed. Center

Ohio State's Hold On Grant Challenged

By Reagan Walker

WASHINGTON—For the first time since the creation of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education in 1976, Ohio State University's designation as site of the center is being seriously challenged.

Encouraged by the $25,000 planning grants offered by the Education Department this year to foster competition, a consortium of leading research institutions, led by the University of California at Berkeley and including the RAND Corporation, is vying for the $30-million federal grant that funds the center.

Also in the competition, which will pit Ohio State's decade of leadership against decentralized systems for managing the flow of research information in the field, is Northern Arizona University, where officials would not comment last week on published reports that their proposal includes the establishment of nine regional centers.

A panel of experts assembled by the Education Department made site visits last

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U.S. Won't Contest Curb on E.D. Power In Audit Disputes

By Julie A. Miller

WASHINGTON—The Justice Department has decided not to appeal an appellate-court ruling that restricts the government's ability to recover federal funds allegedly misspent by school districts, Education Department officials said last week.

In declining to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review the case, Justice lawyers went against the wishes of the Education Department, according to sources familiar with the issue.

As a result of the Justice Department's decision, three of the four districts involved in the lawsuit may be spared repaying any of the money sought by the Education Department, and the fourth cannot be required to repay the entire amount sought, the lawyer for the districts said.

Moreover, the decision leaves unchallenged a precedent favorable to districts that courts will probably apply to at least some future audit disputes.

Meanwhile, measures that would restrict the Education Department's power in audit cases even further are shaping up as a major topic of debate in an upcoming House-Senate conference on an omnibus education bill.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled in June that the department

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AP-Wide World Photos

IMAGES OF CHANGE: Judge W. Arthur Garrity Jr. (right) leaving a Boston school in 1975. Inset, Chief Judge Levin H. Campbell of the First Circuit Court.

Wrangling Over Bork Casts Shadow On Start of High Court's 1987 Term

By Tom Mirga

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Supreme Court opens its 1987-88 term this week facing a host of education-related cases and the possibility of having to consider them one Justice short of its normal complement.

The continuing battle in the Senate over Judge Robert H. Bork's nomination to the Court means that only eight Justices will be seated on the bench when the new session begins on Oct. 5.

That raises the likelihood of 4-to-4 split decisions in the most controversial cases, which would leave lower-court rulings intact without setting new precedents.

Such an outcome is conceivable, for example, in two closely watched school cases that will be heard early in the term.

On Oct. 7, the Justices were to hear arguments in a suit that questions the constitutionality of a New Jersey law requiring a daily moment of silence in public schools. And on Oct. 13, the Court for the first time will consider a case raising the issue of high-school journalists' rights under the First Amendment.

The Senate Judiciary Committee had been scheduled to vote on Judge Bork's nomination on Oct. 1, but delayed final action until this week in order to hear more witnesses.

In a related development, the Senate majority leader, Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, urged his colleagues on the committee last week to consider sending the nomination to the full chamber without making a recommendation. Such a move would spare him and other uncommitted panel members from having to take a public stand on the matter prior to floor debate.

If that tactic is used, and if Senate opponents of the appellate-court judge mount a successful filibuster, the nomination could be killed without a single senator having to cast a vote for or against it.

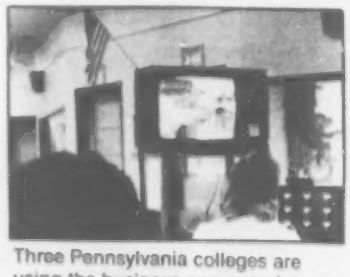
Issues on the Court's 1987-88 docket include:

- **Church-state relations.** In this week's

Continued on Page 23

Also in the news

New 'Pre-Teacher' Testing Center Takes Its Cue From Industrial Model



Three Pennsylvania colleges are using the business concept of gauging the skills of those in training through simulated work tasks.

5

Philadelphia H.M.O. for Children Would Be Nation's First, If Adopted
Citing the role poor health plays in low achievement, the city's school-board president has proposed the creation of a prepaid medical plan for all schoolchildren.

9

Michigan's Broad Reform Blueprint Urges 'Bold Approach' to Funding
Panel's plan would increase state's role in school financing, while tightening academic requirements, increasing parental choice, and providing for district takeovers.

10

Appellate Court Lifts Integration Order in Boston

Student-Assignment Rule Is Struck Down

By William Snider

In a landmark development in the Boston school-desegregation case, a federal appeals court last week struck down strict court-ordered racial guidelines for student assignments that the city's schools had been required to maintain "indefinitely."

The ruling returns control of the student-assignment process to the Boston School Committee for the first time since 1974, when U.S. District Judge W. Arthur Garrity Jr. first ordered the district to implement mandatory busing. Violent protests by parents during the initial year of busing drew national attention to the deep divisions among Boston's various ethnic communities.

The three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit stopped short of declaring the system "unitary," or legally desegregated.

But it ordered Judge Garrity to hold a hearing on the issue and outlined specific criteria that he must use in evaluating the district's progress in meeting the student-

Continued on Page 24

N.E.H. Sets Center For History Studies

By Robert Rothman

WASHINGTON—Officials of the National Endowment for the Humanities last week announced plans to establish a $1.5-million center to examine how history is taught and learned in elementary and secondary schools.

"Evidence shows that the content of history courses in today's elementary and secondary schools is not well presented, understood, or absorbed," said Lynne V. Cheney, chairman of the N.E.H. and author of a scathing indictment of precollegiate humanities education issued in August. "This new history research center will help us to further understand why this is happening and to discover ways to make improvements."

Ms. Cheney said the proposed center, to be housed in a higher-education institution or nonprofit organization, would help identify effective teaching methods, evaluate textbooks and supplemental materials, and assess the training and continuing education of teachers.

In her Congressionally mandated report, entitled "American Memory: A Report on the Humanities in the Nation's Schools," Ms. Cheney argued that, by emphasizing skills rather than content, schools are responsible for "startling gaps in knowledge" among students. *(See Education Week, Sept. 9, 1987.)*

"In our schools today we run the danger

Continued on Page 23

IN SUMMARY

Broadening the Membership
The National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education has altered its constitution to open up its membership and to enable the American Federation of Teachers to join. **Page 4.**

Another Try at Drug Testing
To replace a drug-testing plan for probationary teachers that was held unconstitutional by New York's highest court, a Long Island school district has formulated a new policy that applies to all applicants for district jobs. **Page 5.**

'Underachieving Curricula'
Concerned about lagging U.S. achievement in mathematics, officials in Florida, Iowa, and Virginia are using an international math test to gauge students' skills in the subject and diagnose weaknesses in curricula. **Page 6.**

A Move for Local Tax Relief
A governor's commission in Wisconsin is recommending that the state significantly boost its share of precollegiate spending—from about 47 percent to 70 percent—and reduce local property taxes by 25 percent. **Page 10.**

Questioning 'Aversive Therapy'
The U.S. Justice Department plans to "examine vigorously" a widely debated form of treatment that uses physical punishment to modify human behavior, particularly in children and young adults. **Page 14.**

Science, Morality, and AIDS
Fearing that a teachers' guide on AIDS being developed by the U.S. Education Department will give more emphasis to morality than to scientific information, a House panel has voted to subpoena a draft of the booklet. **Page 18.**

'Terrific Bill' Advances
A Senate subcommittee has unanimously approved a measure reauthorizing major federal programs in education that closely parallels a House version and, according to lobbyists, is a "terrific bill" for schools. **Page 19.**

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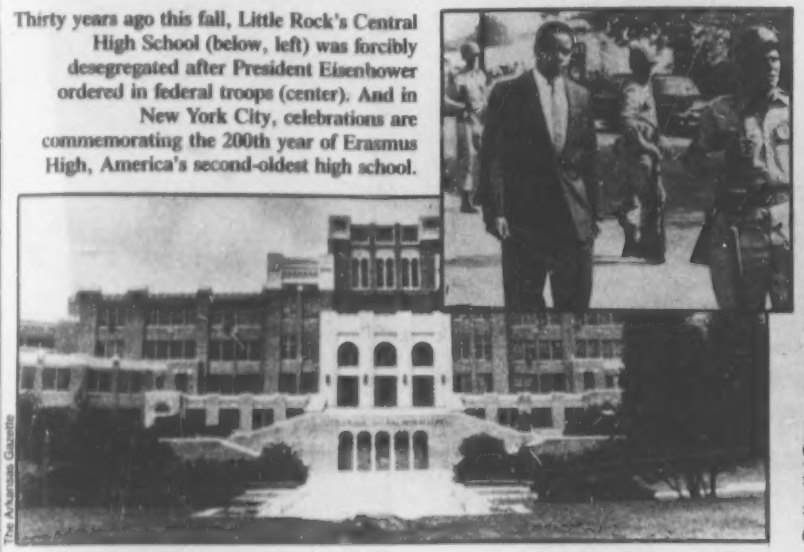
ACROSS THE NATION

MILESTONES

Schools in History: Two Anniversaries Are Marked

Thirty years ago this fall, Little Rock's Central High School (below, left) was forcibly desegregated after President Eisenhower ordered in federal troops (center). And in New York City, celebrations are commemorating the 200th year of Erasmus High, America's second-oldest high school.



The Arkansas Gazette

The New York Times

NATIONAL

State, Local Education Officials Issue Guidelines on Child Abuse

Concerned that school districts do not have clearly defined policies on child-abuse prevention, two national education groups have issued a set of proposed guidelines.

The statement by the National Association of State Boards of Education and the American Association of School Administrators recommends that abuse-prevention policies include a provision requiring that all job applicants be screened for prior convictions on abuse charges.

Such measures should also provide due process for teachers and other workers accused of child abuse, and should involve the maintenance and dissemination to other districts of information on workers with criminal records. The data, the groups say, should also be provided to the interstate teacher-certification clearinghouse.

"These are the kinds of things that most people don't think about until there is a problem," said Tim Callahan, a spokesman for NASBE.

STATES

Delaware Board Adopts Rules On Health-Education Content

School districts in Delaware must develop comprehensive health-education programs that include AIDS and sex education for students in all grades, under new policy guidelines approved by the state board.

While mandating for the first time exactly what health programs must cover at each grade level, the board left it up to each district to decide how to teach the material, according to Ambrose Hagarty, a spokesman for the education department.

"Before, it was hit and miss," Mr. Hagarty said. "Now we are telling districts that they have to have a comprehensive program."

Under the guidelines, districts are required to devote at least 30 hours each year in grades K-6, and 60 hours in grade 7 or 8, to health instruction. The classes must include sex education and instruction about the hazards of smoking and drug abuse.

In addition, districts must offer instruction on human reproduction and acquired immune deficiency syndrome in high-school health courses required for graduation. According to the guidelines, the courses must emphasize that sexual abstinence is the best way to avoid contracting AIDS, but should also teach about other preventive measures.

Gannett Asked To Pay $455 For Kits on the Constitution

Gov. Madeleine M. Kunin of Vermont has asked Gannett Newspapers, publisher of the state's largest newspaper, the Burlington *Free Press*, to pay $455 for costs incurred by the National Guard in delivering to schools materials on the Constitution.

A spokesman for the Governor said a company official had "deceived" the guard and the state's commission on the bicentennial of the Constitution, which helped sponsor the development of the materials, when he told them the packets for schools would not contain anything of a commercial nature. The guard, which agreed to help distribute the materials, and the commission believed the packets would contain a 24-page study guide prepared by Gannett.

In fact, however, only 10,000 high-school students received the study guide, while 65,000 received a copy of the Constitution wrapped inside Gannett's *U.S.A. Today*.

Apologizing, the publisher of the *Free Press* said the company would distribute the study guide at its own expense.

DISTRICTS

Atlanta School Board Criticized For Hiring Substandard Teachers

Gov. Joe Frank Harris of Georgia has charged that the Atlanta Board of Education may be trying to circumvent the state's education-reform act by rehiring 47 teachers who have not yet passed the state's teacher-certification tests.

At a news conference Sept. 16, Mr. Harris said he was "greatly" concerned by the board's plan to allow the teachers to keep working as substitutes.

"Unavoidably, this action creates the impression that the accountability provisions of the Quality Basic Education program are being circumvented," he said. The Governor added that, if necessary, he would move to strengthen the state's policies and laws governing substitutes.

But Eugene Bales, director of support services for the Atlanta public schools, said that the district was observing the law.

He argued that the 47 teachers were among the best substitutes the district could find, since they were already familiar with the school system. "In a system our size, we need more substitute teachers every day than we have bodies to fill," he said.

Georgia is one of only three states that require veteran teachers to pass a test to be recertified.

■ **School employees suspected of having AIDS** in Colorado's St. Vrain Valley School District may be required to undergo testing for exposure to the AIDS virus under a new policy on communicable diseases outlined by school officials.

Those employees who test positive may be fired, the new rules state, if school officials determine that the infected employees are either physically unable to continue work or pose a threat to the health of others.

The policy, announced last month, has so far provoked little controversy and is supported by the St. Vrain Valley Teachers' Association.

■ **A federal judge in Illinois** is expected to decide this month whether school officials in Belleville acted properly when they barred a 6-year-old boy with AIDS from attending school in that community.

In the first lawsuit of its kind in Illinois, the boy's lawyer and the American Civil Liberties Union in Chicago charged last month that officials of Belleville School District 118 unfairly discriminated against "Johnny Doe" by keeping him out of school. The child, a hemophiliac whose identity is

NCATE Amends Charter To Permit A.F.T., Others To Join

The organization that accredits teacher-training institutions has altered its constitution to enable the American Federation of Teachers to join the group and to open up membership to more national organizations.

The National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education accepted the A.F.T.'s application for membership last fall. It became official late last month, after approval of a constitutional change that allows the teachers' union to appoint members to any of NCATE's four governing boards—up to a total of four members—as part of the group's teacher constituency.

Formerly, only the National Education Association, which was a founding member of the organization, had authority to appoint teacher members to the boards.

New Constitution

Under the new constitution, approved by NCATE's executive board on Sept. 25, board members must belong to one of the following categories: teacher education, teachers, state and local policymakers, specialty organizations that engage in the professional preparation of teachers, and public and student representatives.

The constitutional changes add four seats to each category. An A.F.T. official last week said that the union's executive council will decide next month how many of the four seats in the teachers' category it will choose to fill, and on which boards.

The N.E.A. now has a total of 14 seats on the executive board and the three other NCATE boards. Teacher groups must pay $5,200 a year for each member who sits on one of the four boards.

During its meeting, the executive board also limited membership in the "teacher education" category to national groups that represent higher-education institutions that prepare school personnel.

In March, the board tentatively agreed to open up membership in that category to organizations that represent individual teacher educators, such as the Association of Teacher Educators.

Objections from associations that represent teacher-training institutions, however, such as the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, led the board to reverse its decision.

Board members also accepted as new members the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the American Library Association. Both groups will be represented in the "specialty organizations" category.

State Recognition

At a concurrent session, NCATE's new state-recognition board gave its stamp of approval to state procedures for accrediting teacher-education programs in six states: Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Montana, North Dakota, and Oklahoma.

But it requested that two other states—Alabama and Utah—provide additional information before it acts on their requests this spring.

Once NCATE has endorsed a state's system for ensuring the quality of individual teacher-education programs, the NCATE evaluations in that state will focus on the entire school, college, or department that prepares teachers.

The new procedure is expected to save teacher-training institutions time, effort, and money. It is considered an important part of NCATE's broader effort to redesign and upgrade its standards and procedures. —L.O. & B.R.

Plan Now to Attend

The Fifth International Conference On Technology And Education

Edinburgh, Scotland
March 29-31, 1988

Many nations are currently exploring the use of computers and other technologies as a means of improving the quality of education. This conference is designed to facilitate the exchange of information, software and technical expertise between nations.

Themes of the conference will include Artificial Intelligence, Open and Distance Learning, New Enabling Technologies, Computers in the Classroom, Educational Administration, Teacher Education and Leadership in the Information Age.

Sponsors include the University of Edinburgh, the Scottish Council for Educational Technology, the International Council for Computers in Education, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Texas at Arlington, the University of Tennessee, InterTAN Corporation and Tandy Corporation/Radio Shack Education Division.

A social program will ensure that delegates have an unforgettable visit and sample not only the delights of Scottish hospitality but also the history and culture of Edinburgh. The program will culminate in a dinner in the historic and magnificent Upper Library of the University of Edinburgh.

Registration fees are $210 for delegates and $65 for research students. An accompanying fee of $55 covers all events in the social program. Fees increase after February 16. Special air fares are being arranged. Return the coupon for complete information and an application to join us for what will be a truly memorable event.

Send me more information on the Conference on Technology & Education.
Radio Shack, Ed. Div., Attn: Jamie Alexander
1600 One Tandy Center, Fort Worth, TX 76102

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Fines Mounting For Strikers In New Jersey

A three-week-long teacher strike continued last week in Elizabeth, N.J., despite mounting court-ordered fines totaling more than $80-million as of mid-week.

Judge Frederick C. Kentz of New Jersey Superior Court imposed the fines on the Elizabeth Education Association and the New Jersey Education Association when the 2,000 school employees refused the judge's order to return to work Sept. 10, two days after the strike began.

Each organization was fined $10,000 for the first day after the order. That amount has been doubled daily and added to the previous day's balance. If an agreement cannot be reached in the salary dispute by Oct. 5, Judge Kentz has ordered that the teachers be fired and that the associations pay a combined total of more than $2 billion in fines.

In Little Rock, Ark., 1,700 teachers went on strike over a salary dispute last week, initiating the first teachers' strike in state history. Nearly 26,000 students are affected by the strike. A union spokesman said that with the help of a federal mediator, a settlement was possible over the weekend.

Teachers in Chicago and school-bus drivers in Boston continued their strikes last week. —R.R.W.

Correction

A chart in the Sept. 30 issue misidentified the states that ranked highest and lowest in an index of education statistics developed by the accounting firm Grant Thornton Associates. Wyoming, with a ranking of 1, scored highest on the index, while Tennessee scored lowest, with a ranking of 48.